

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 7, 8, 13, 15, 16/7, 16/8, 16/13 and 16/15.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 2, 7, 9, 11, 15 and 16 have been amended, and claims 1 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for filing in a continuation application. Claims 3-6, 12, 14, 16/3-16/6, 16/12 and 16/14 have been withdrawn. Thus, claims 2, 7-11, 15 and 16 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

Informal Matters

In the Office Action mailed March 20, 2007, claim 1 was objected to for informalities. Claim 1 has been canceled thereby rendering the objection moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

In the outstanding Office Action, claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Koren et al. (US Patent No. 6,831,686, hereinafter, "Koren"). Claims 1, 10, 16/1 and 16/10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koren in view of Park (US 2003/0202111). Claims 2, 11, 16/2 and 16/11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koren and Park, and further in view of Chiu (US 2003/0016294). Claims 7, 8, 13, 15, 16/7, 16/8, 16/13 and 16/15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Merely to facilitate allowance of the instant application, the Applicants have amended claim 7 to be in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, thereby placing claim 7 in condition for allowance. In addition, the Applicants have amended claim 9 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 13, which originally depended from claim 9, thereby placing claim 9 in condition for allowance. As claims 7 and 9 are allowable, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 8, 10, 11, 15 and 16, each of which depends from one or more of claims 7 and 9, are likewise allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 7 and 9.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this

communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing client matter number
108066-00091.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michele L. Connell", written over a horizontal line.

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